



State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
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July 23, 2002

Gene Turner, OLASO
AIP Point of Contact
U.S. Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office
528 35th Street, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

RE: NPDES Outfall Deletion for 03A047 & 03A049 at TA-53

Dear Mr. Turner:

This brief report supports my recommendation to have NPDES outfalls 03A047 & 03A049 at TA-53 removed from LANL's NPDES permit. On June 11, 2002, I was invited out to TA-53 by Marc Bailey (RRES-WQH) to inspect the results of a major cooling tower removal and consolidation project. During the site briefing, it was brought to my knowledge that the reason for removing the two cooling towers (53-60 and 53-64) was to improve the overall water-use and cooling process efficiency at the LANCE facility in addition to mitigating known arsenic contamination sources that were inherent with the operation of these two old coolers. Also, as part of this project, the two referenced outfalls (03A047 & 03A049) associated with the demolished cooling towers were shut off and physically removed. At the site I observed the empty pads where the two towers had once stood in addition to some remains of the two outfalls. The general location of this demolition and removal activity occurred on the TA-53 mesa top approximately 1000 feet due south of the O-4 production well in Los Alamos Canyon.

From what I observed, this project is a model example of LANL's more recent stance to be proactive in identifying and mitigating water-use and contamination concerns of the New Mexico Environment Department. If you have any questions, please contact me at 672-0448 (syanicak@lanl.gov).

Sincerely,

Steve Yanicak, LANL POC
Natural Sciences Manager-2

SY:sy



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